GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2052
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
FOREST FIRE
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest fires are increasing in various parts of the country thereby resulting in loss of precious medicinal plants and also danger to nearby human habitation;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and effective measures to extinguish the fire without loss of time and damage of property, animals and human beings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) No Sir, there are no such reports of increasing forest fires resulting in loss of precious medicinal plants.

(c) to (e) The Central Government provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments, under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensification of Forest Management". A major portion of this assistance is meant for the purpose of forest-fire control and management. For prevention of forest-fires, traditional methods such as clearing of forest-fire lines, engagement of fire watchers is resorted to. Modern technology of Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) is used for preparation of Forest-Fire Control and Management Plans and for drawing strategies for effective forest-fire prevention.

For control of forest-fires, modern techniques including satellite based reporting systems are used. Forest-fire strike forces are kept in readiness for quick mobilisation. Support of local people and members of Joint Forest Management Committees is mobilised for fire control activities. Water storage structures are built in and around fire prone areas, the frontline forestry personnel are provided with fire extinguishers, tools and gadgets. A system of 'reward' is also in place in many States for Joint Forest Management Committees for rendering effective services for control of forest-fire.